

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 297

By McNally

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Lawrence Hahn for sixty years of dedicated service to the Boys & Girls Clubs.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should specially recognize those estimable public servants who have given generously of themselves to assist the children and families of their communities; and

WHEREAS, Lawrence Hahn, who has been a vital contributor to the Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BGCA) for sixty years, has positively influenced generations of youth and adults; and

WHEREAS, in 1953, while a sophomore at East Tennessee State University, Mr. Hahn began working at the Johnson City Boys Club; five years later, he had just graduated from college when he was named the charter executive director of the Boys Club of Oak Ridge (the Club), becoming the youngest person to serve in that capacity in the nation; and

WHEREAS, inheriting a dilapidated wooden structure for a clubhouse, Mr. Hahn provided enthusiastic and diligent leadership in building a large and productive network of volunteers and influential benefactors; for fifty-one years, he worked with purpose and commitment to execute the Club's mission, and his vision resulted in thousands of lives being improved, as well as the construction of modern club facilities; and

WHEREAS, while raising a family of his own, Mr. Hahn also served as a father figure for many children at the Club, attending to their physical needs, but also bringing joy and comfort to their lives; while many of the original members have now reached retirement age, he has had the pleasure of knowing and helping their children and grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, in 1982, Mr. Hahn founded the Club's Alumni Association, which is now one of the largest and most productive such organizations in the nation; alumni members have donated hundreds of thousands of dollars and thousands of hours of service to the Club, which

speaks glowingly to their gratitude and admiration for Mr. Hahn as a mentor and friend who held them to high standards; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hahn also served as a member of the BGCA Professional Association, executive secretary of the Tennessee Area Council of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Tennessee for three terms, and a member and chair of numerous state and national area council committees; his great impact on the organization has been recognized via his receipt of the BGCA Man and Boy Award, the BGCA Bronze Keystone Award, the BGCA Light The Path Award, the BGCA National Service to Youth Award, and the BGCA National Professional Service Award; and

WHEREAS, since his retirement in August 2009, Mr. Hahn has served the Club as a volunteer worker and consultant and an active and essential part of its fundraising and community relation efforts; in the ultimate expression of respect, the board of directors has named the Boys & Girls Club of Oak Ridge in his honor, and he has been designated executive director emeritus; and

WHEREAS, recognized as an important part of Oak Ridge's philanthropy and community spirit, Mr. Hahn is a longtime member of the Oak Ridge Rotary Club and the Loyal Order of the Moose and a charter member of the Oak Ridge Sports Hall of Fame Board of Directors, and he has served on numerous ad hoc committees established by city officials and the Board of Education; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to accolades during his long and distinguished career, Mr. Hahn has been honored with the Rotary Vocational Service Award, the Sertoma Service to Mankind Award, the Fraternal Order of Eagles Service Award, the East Tennessee Chapter of the National Football League Foundation and Hall of Fame Distinguished Service Award, the Outstanding Tennessean Award (presented by Governor Lamar Alexander), and induction into the Oak Ridge Sports Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, Lawrence Hahn is fortunate to share both love and companionship with his wife, Barbara, and their children, David, James, and Eva; and

WHEREAS, Lawrence Hahn is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the Volunteer State; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CONCURRING, that we honor Lawrence Hahn for sixty years of dedicated service to the Boys & Girls Clubs of America, commend his illustrious fifty-one-year tenure as executive director of the Boys & Girls Club of Oak Ridge, and salute his unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.